



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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FEDERAL "DUCK STAMP" CONTEST OPENS JULY 1;
1983 WINNER TO BE FEATURED IN 50TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

America's foremost wildlife art competition -- the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's annual "Duck Stamp" contest -- opens for entries on July 1, 1983.

This year's art judging, to be held on November 8 and 9, 1983, will select the design for the 1984-85 Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp. That stamp will be issued on the 50th anniversary of the Federal hunting stamp program and will cap half a century of public support for the Nation's waterfowl conservation effort. The "Duck Stamp" was first issued in 1934.

During the past 50 years, over 3.5 million acres have been acquired as National Wildlife Refuge System lands or waterfowl production areas with more than \$400 million in revenue (\$256 million in direct "Duck Stamp" receipts and \$144 million from accelerated wetlands acquisition loan funds).

The "Duck Stamp" was the brainchild of noted political cartoonist and conservationist J.N. "Ding" Darling, later chief of one of the Fish and Wildlife Service's predecessor agencies, the Bureau of Biological Survey. The colorful stamp is the means by which waterfowl hunters show payment of their annual migratory bird hunting tax.

The "Duck Stamp" is required of all migratory waterfowl hunters 16 years of age and older. The program is the longest-running, annually-issued series of stamps in U.S. revenue stamp history; nearly two million of the \$7.50 stamps are sold every year, yielding \$15 million annually for the acquisition of prime waterfowl habitat. Between 1934 and 1949, the design for each year's stamp --

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featuring a depiction of a duck, goose, or swan -- was commissioned by the Federal Government. Since 1949 the designs have been selected by a contest that has emerged as the wildlife art world's premier annual event.

"This year's contest carries added significance, since the winning design will appear on the 50th anniversary stamp, which will go on sale in mid-1984," says Fish and Wildlife Service Director Robert Jantzen. "Beyond the prestige that this contest carries is the importance of the 'Duck Stamp' in providing the financial base for waterfowl conservation. Of course, the real tribute, after 50 years, should go to the American sportsmen who pay the bill every hunting season."

Entries for the 1983 judging, open to all citizens and residents of the United States, can be sent in any time on or after July 1, 1983, but must be received or postmarked no later than midnight, October 1, 1983. The November 8 and 9 judging will be held at the Department of the Interior auditorium, 18th and C Streets, N.W., in Washington, D.C., beginning at 9 a.m. each day.

The Fish and Wildlife Service has also announced the following selected rules, among others, for this year's contest:

- All entries must be accompanied by a non-refundable \$20 entry fee;
- The dominant feature of each entry must be a live, non-extinct North American migratory duck, goose, or swan of the scientific family Anatidae. The following five species are ineligible as entries for this year's contest, having been selected as winning designs during "Duck Stamp" contests over the past 5 years: green-winged teal, mallard, ruddy duck, canvasback, and pintail;
- All contestants are advised to insure their entries, since the Federal Government assumes no responsibility for damage or loss.

Copies of the complete rules and regulations for the 1983 "Duck Stamp" contest and the reproduction rights agreement are available from the "Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp" Contest, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240. Entries must be submitted to the same address.

(A notice of the 1983 competition and a listing of changes in contest rules and procedures appeared in the May 12, 1983, Federal Register.)

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